



## RURAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMISSION

NEBRASKA OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH  
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**Minutes of the  
RURAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMISSION  
Friday, June 19, 2015  
220 S. 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, Nebraska**

Members Present: John (Andy) Craig, M.D.; Marty Fattig; Jessye Goertz; Mark Goodman, M.D.; Mary Kent; Lisa Mlnarik, MSN, APRN, FNP; Noah Piskorski, D.D.S.; Jenifer Roberts-Johnson, J.D.; Rebecca Schroeder, Ph.D.; Roger Wells, P.A.-C.

Members Excused: Brian Buhlke, D.O.; Mike Sitorius, M.D.; (vacant position – DHHS representative)

Staff Present: Margaret Brockman, Joni Delaney, Nancy Jo Hansen, Marlene Janssen, Deb Stoltenberg

1. Call Meeting to Order; Open Meetings Act & Agenda Posted; Adopt Agenda; Approve Minutes of February 20, 2015, Meeting; Introduce Members and Guests

Chairman Marty Fattig called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. with the following members present: Craig, Fattig, Goertz, Goodman, Kent, Mlnarik, Piskorski, Schroeder, and Wells.

Mr. Fattig announced that the Open Meetings Act and Agenda are posted by the door.

Roger Wells moved to approve the agenda without any changes. Dr. Mark Goodman seconded the motion. Motion carried. YES: Craig, Fattig, Goertz, Goodman, Kent, Mlnarik, Piskorski, Schroeder, and Wells. NO: None. Excused: Buhlke, Roberts-Johnson, and Sitorius.

Lisa Mlnarik moved to approve the February 20, 2015, RHAC meeting minutes the following corrections: add to item 4 the Accounts Receivable and Budget Review reports (provided to members in a handout) and under item 7, SLRP awards include 4 physicians and 1 physician assistant. Dr. Goodman seconded the motion. Motion carried. YES: Craig, Fattig, Goertz, Goodman, Kent, Mlnarik, Piskorski, Schroeder, and Wells. NO: None. Excused: Buhlke, Roberts-Johnson, and Sitorius.

Mr. Fattig asked the commission members and Office of Rural Health staff to introduce themselves and welcomed guests.

Jenifer Roberts-Johnson arrived at 1:34 p.m.

## 2. Administrative Items

- Next Meeting: Friday, September 11, 2015, 1:30 p.m., Central City, NE
- Other

Marty Fattig announced that the next Rural Health Advisory Commission meeting will be on Friday, September 11, 2015, 1:30 p.m. in Central City, Nebraska since the commission is required by statute to have one meeting each year outside of Lincoln and Omaha.

Marlene Janssen announced that several commission members' terms will be expiring September 30, 2015. Ms. Janssen stated that she will email those members a link to application.

Ms. Janssen congratulated Marty Fattig on receiving the J.G Elliott Award. The John G. (Jack) Elliott Award of the Chancellor of the University of Nebraska Medical Center is given annually in memory of Regent Elliott to honor an individual who has made significant contributions to medicine and health programs for the State of Nebraska and for the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

## 3. Federal & State Legislative Issues

Marty Fattig distributed a summary of legislative bills the Nebraska Hospital Association compiled. Mr. Fattig stated he was personally involved in working on LB46, changes provisions of the Statewide Trauma System Act, which essentially designates "trauma rehabilitation centers." The following legislative bills passed: LB107, eliminated integrated practice agreements and provide for transition-to-practice agreements for nurse practitioners; LB129, requires criminal background checks for applicants for an initial nursing license; and LB196, was proposed by the Rural Health Advisory Commission and changes provisions of the Rural Health Systems and Professional Incentive Act.

Bills that did not pass but are of interest include LB548, to adopt the Surgical Assistant Practice Act; LB549, Medicaid expansion; LB593, a proposal to appropriate funds to the University of Nebraska to study current health data systems and LB625, to adopt the Interstate Placement for Involuntarily Admitted Patients Agreement Act.

Marty Fattig reported that he talked with colleagues in Washington, D.C. earlier this week for *Health Week on the Hill*. One of the topics discussed was interoperability; how we share data. Since 2009, \$30B has been spent on developing systems to share patient data and we are no closer to sharing data. Mr. Fattig reviewed proposed federal cuts to programs that impact rural hospitals and rural health care.

Marlene Janssen asked to discuss LB661 since a representation from the Coordination Commission for Postsecondary Education was in attendance. LB661, provides fund transfers, creates funds, authorizes certain transfers, and authorizes contracts relating to oral health care. The premise for this legislation references the Rural Health Advisory Commission's state-designated general dentistry shortage areas and the lack of dentists in rural Nebraska. This legislation promotes the creation of dental practice training sites to assist in getting dental services to rural and underserved shortage areas. Dr. Mike Baumgartner, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, stated he did not know very much about LB661 and

how it will work but was attending the commission meeting to learn more about the Rural Health Advisory Commission.

Marty Fattig stated that he and Roger Wells had lunch today with Courtney Phillips, the new CEO of the Department of Health and Human Services. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce Ms. Phillips to the work of the Rural Health Advisory Commission and stand ready to help.

Marty Fattig requested that the commission send a thank-you letter to Senator Campbell and members of the HHS Committee for the work they did on LB196, the legislation proposed by the Rural Health Advisory Commission to change provisions of the Rural Health Systems and Professional Incentive Act including adding a medical resident loan repayment program. In order to do that, Mr. Fattig stated the commission needs to make a motion. Dr. Goodman asked if there was any additional funding attached to LB196. Mr. Fattig replied that no money was attached to LB196. The fiscal note was based on providing the maximum amounts based on the current number of health professionals in both rural incentive plus the addition of 3 or 4 medical resident loan repayment recipients instead of incremental funding. Marty Fattig explained that the plan is to continue the rural incentive awards as the commission has been doing, wait for the legislation to take effect, work on the regulations and the administration of the new medical resident loan repayment program, and then present a request from the commission to the Legislative Appropriations Committee.

Dr. Mark Goodman moved to have Marty Fattig send a thank-you on behalf of the Rural Health Advisory Commission to Senator Kathy Campbell and members of the HHS Committee for their work on LB196. Dr. Andy Craig seconded the motion. Motion carried. YES: Craig, Fattig, Goertz, Goodman, Kent, Mlnarik, Piskorski, Roberts-Johnson, Schroeder, and Wells. NO: None. Excused: Buhlke, and Sitorius.

4. Office of Rural Health Updates
  - State Rural Health Policy Recommendations
  - Primary Care Office
  - Other

Margaret Brockman announced that critical access hospitals (CAH) are eligible to apply for a Helmsley Grant for CT scanners at minimal to no cost. This grant is only available to six states, Nebraska being one of those states. Ms. Brockman reported that the Office of Rural Health (ORH) administers several grants. The FLEX grant, in the amount of \$786,000, for quality operations, population health, etc. is a 3-year grant for CAHs

Ms. Brockman stated that ORH is waiting for notice of the State Offices of Rural Health grant award. ORH has implemented three new contracts as follows. The first is a contract with the UNMC Health Professions Tracking Services (HPTS) to integrate our rural incentive data with the HPTS data for retention studies and provide ORH with reports. The second is a contract with Dave Palm to assist in writing a new rural health plan which will include five regional meetings across the state with stakeholders including members of the RHAC. The third contract is again with Dave Palm to facilitate the RHAC Policy Committee in the development of rural health issues and resolutions. Marty Fattig explained that historically the commission had two subcommittees. Marlene Janssen was responsible for the Program Committee and Denny Berens

(retired Director of the Nebraska Office of Rural Health) facilitated the Policy Committee. Commission members could choose which committee they wanted to serve on. With changes in membership and ORH staff, the commission moved to staff subcommittees with volunteers as needed to address specific issues.

Margaret Brockman announced that the ORH may get additional funds from the National Health Service Corps State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP). Nebraska was first awarded a SLRP grant as of September 1, 2014. Since we had a loan repayment system already set up we were able to obligate all of our funds. Some other states were not able to use the grant funds and so these unused funds were redistributed to states such as Nebraska.

ORH staff will be presenting at the Nebraska Rural Health Association (NeRHA) conference in September. The panel discussion will focus on the federal and state incentive programs and shortage areas.

ORH is working on upgrading its webpage. We are trying to make it user friendly, revise information, and collect statistics on the number of hits. Ms. Brockman stated that ORH is moving the loan repayment application online and it will include collecting demographic information about the applicants. Eventually the online application will have a screening tool to weed out unqualified applicants.

Roger Wells asked if there will be guidelines with the application because St. Paul tried something like this with their local health foundation. It was supposed to be local and they ended up with applicants from all over. It took a lot of administrative time to review and call applicants. Jenifer Roberts-Johnson replied that State government is moving to applications online. We will indicate the criteria in order to apply. The State websites, specifically DHHS, are intentional on purpose. Someone has to be looking for a specific program.

Marlene Janssen suggested that there be a series of questions before the application like a "Survey Monkey" making it electronic. Margaret Brockman replied that someone from the ORH will screen the applications as they are received and prepare a spreadsheet to send to all ORH staff. Nancy Jo Hansen stated that it will take time to design a screening system application but according to the web designer the current application can be loaded immediately.

Margaret Brockman reported on upcoming meetings: the reverse site visit will be in Washington, D.C. in June and there will be a National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) regional meeting in August.

5. Program 175 – Rural Incentive Programs
  - Updates on Current Program Recipients
  - Accounts Receivable Report
  - Review Current Budget
  - Other

Marlene Janssen reported that psychologist student loan recipient Anitra Warrior will be graduating in August. She will be practicing in multiple shortage areas. Ms. Warrior was given an extension by the Rural Health Advisory Commission to complete her training due to the lack of internship programs.

Ms. Janssen provided the following Accounts Receivable report:

**Student Loan Update** (Contract Buyout and Defaults)

Michelle Bausch, LMHP – died 12/2014, Student Loan debt cancelled as per statute  
Emory Dye, medical student – in-school buyout notified 06/2015, Due May 1, 2017  
Stephanie Ebke, dental student, - in-school buyout, 4/2015 Paid-in-full  
Tamara Kenning, LMHP – 03/2015, Paid-in-full  
Andria Simons, med student – court judgment; has made several payments  
Nick Woodward, DDS Ped – (left Nebraska after graduating...moved back to Nebraska and is now practicing in the Omaha metro area), payments current

**Loan Repayment** (Defaults – left shortage area for non-shortage area or left Nebraska)

Bethan Berg, P.A. – left shortage area, Paid-In-Full 4/2015  
Tiffany Contet, P.A. – had to resign for health reasons (5/2014); Paid-In-Full 4/2015  
Megan Faltys, M.D. – left shortage area 12/13; payments current  
Paul Willette, M.D. (general surgeon) – left Nebraska, default 7/1/2013, Legal staff working on collecting

Marlene Janssen provided a summary of the Program 175 budget (rural incentive programs). July 1, 2015, is the beginning of the next biennium. The Legislature appropriated \$787,086 in general funds and \$1,956,815 in cash spending authority each of the next two years (FY2015-16 and FY2016-17). Ms. Janssen stated that \$100,000 of cash spending authority is set aside for the National Health Service State Loan Repayment Program (NHSC SLRP). As of today, with the approval of certain loan repayment applications and student loan awards, the Rural Health Advisory Commission will have obligated *all* of the general funds and \$1,331,553 in cash spending authority. It is important to understand that the *state* funds used for the state match for loan repayment is approximately \$1.1M with an equal amount of cash spending authority for the *local match* money. In addition to the loan repayment awards, the commission generally budgets approximately \$240,000 for the student loan awards.

6. Closed Session

- Student Loan Applications
  - New
  - Continuation
- Loan Repayment Applications

Dr. Mark Goodman moved to go to closed session at 2:27 p.m. Dr. Rebecca Schroeder seconded the motion. Motion carried. YES: Craig, Fattig, Goertz, Goodman, Kent, Mlnarik, Piskorski, Roberts-Johnson, Schroeder, and Wells. NO: None. Excused: Buhlke, and Sitorius.

Marty Fattig announced that the RHAC would go into Closed Session at 2:27 p.m. to review the loan repayment applications. Mr. Fattig asked guests to please wait outside the room.

Jenifer Roberts-Johnson left at 2:28 p.m.

7. Open Session
- Motions on Closed Session Discussions

Lisa Mlnarik moved to go to Open Session at 2:40 p.m. Dr. Mark Goodman seconded the motion. Motion carried. YES: Craig, Goertz, Goodman, Kent, Mlnarik, Piskorski, Schroeder, and Wells. NO: None. EXCUSED: Buhlke, Roberts-Johnson, Sitorius.

Lisa Mlnarik moved to approve the following new and continuation student loans for FY2015-16 with the amounts shown or as determined by Office of Rural Health staff:

NAME	COLLEGE	2015-16 SPECIALTY & YEAR	2015-16 SL Status CONT/NEW	ANNUAL AMOUNT OF LOAN
Aschoff (Flood) Allison	Wayne State	MH1	NEW	\$10,000
Janata, Kaitlyn	Union College	PA1	NEW	\$10,000
Sjuts, Alexander	UNMC	D1	NEW	\$20,000
Thomas, Kaleb	UNMC	M1	NEW	\$20,000
Zenter, Cathryn	UNMC	M1	NEW	\$20,000
Hohwieler, Bradley	UNMC	M2	Cont	\$20,000
Kahle, Adam	UNMC	M2	Cont	\$20,000
Kindred, Erin	UNMC	M3	Cont	\$20,000
Marshall, Derek	UNMC	M2	Cont	\$20,000
Peterson, Danika	CREIGHTON	M3	Cont	\$20,000
Sackschewsky, Melissa	UNMC	D3	Cont	\$20,000
Seeger, David	UNMC	D4	Cont	\$20,000

Dr. Mark Goodman seconded motion. Motion carried. YES: Craig, Goertz, Goodman, Kent, Mlnarik, Piskorski, Schroeder, and Wells. NO: None. EXCUSED: Buhlke, Roberts-Johnson, Sitorius.

Dr. Mark Goodman moved to approve the following loan repayment applications with estimated loan repayment start dates and loan repayment amounts as indicated or as determined by Office of Rural Health staff based on issuance of license and/or loan documentation:

Applicant's Name	Loan Repayment Start Date	Specialty	County (Town) of Practice	Total LR Amt. State & Local
Jundt, Brian	09/01/2015	M.D. (FP)	Holt County (O'Neill)	\$120,000
Jundt, Dena	09/01/2015	M.D. (FP)	Holt County (O'Neill)	\$120,000
Brown, Brandon PEND LICENSE	08/01/2015	M.D. (FP)	Cheyenne County (Sidney)	\$120,000
Israel, Michael	07/01/2015	M.D. (FP)	Lancaster Co (People's CHC)	\$120,000

(WL status 2/17/15-applying to NHSC)				
Miller, Hilary	08/01/2015	M.D. (FP)	Valley (Ord), Garfield, Sherman	\$120,000
Kuchar, Travis 0.9 FTE PART-TIME	07/01/2015	Pharmacist	Merrick County (Central City)	\$54,000
Beyer, Jonna	07/01/2015	P.A. (FP)	Kimball County (Kimball)	\$60,000
Bodyfield, Kasi	07/01/2015	Pharmacist	Valley (Ord), Sherman Cos.	\$43,231

and move the following loan repayment applications to the waiting list to be reviewed at the September meeting:

<b>Applicant's Name</b>	<b>Estimated Loan Repayment Start Date</b>	<b>Specialty</b>	<b>County (Town) of Practice</b>	<b>Total LR Amt. State &amp; Local</b>
Eigenberg, Michael	07/01/2015	M.D. (G.S.)	Hall (G.I.), Custer, Boone Counties	\$120,000.00
DeMuth, Katie	07/01/2015	P.A. (FP)	Antelope County (Neligh)	\$57,847.00
Klug, Benjamin	08/01/2016	M.D. (OB/GYN)	Lincoln County (North Platte)	\$120,000.00
Stanley, Kylee	10/01/2015	M.D. (Genl IM)	Dodge County (Fremont)	\$120,000.00
Mastny, Christi	07/15/2015	N.P. (FP)	Colfax County (Schuyler)	\$5,129.00
Sanborn, Jessica PEND LICENSE	07/01/2015	D.D.S. (Genl)	Knox County (Creighton)	\$120,000.00
Goeser, Rachel PEND LICENSE	08/01/2015	O.T.	Cherry County (Valentine)	\$60,000.00
Hansen, Abby	07/01/2015	P.A. (FP)	Webster County (Red Cloud)	\$60,000.00
Green, Kylie PEND LICENSE	08/01/2015	O.T.	Antelope & Pierce Counties (Neligh)	\$59,527.00
Waldrep, John	07/01/2015	P.A. (FP)	Johnson County (Tecumseh)	\$60,000.00
Krejci, TaLisa	07/01/2015	O.T.	Box Butte County (Alliance)	\$60,000.00
Streufert, Brindi	07/01/2015	PH.D.	Adams County (Hastings)	\$120,000.00
Marlatt, Richard PEND LICENSE	08/01/2015	PharmD	Cherry County (Valentine)	\$60,000.00
Peterson Truksa, Vicki	07/01/2015	N.P. (FP)	Nance County (Genoa)	\$29,309.00
Pirog, Erica	07/01/2015	P.A. (FP)	Merrick County (Central City)	\$60,000.00
Castillo, Sarah	08/01/2015	M.D. (FP)	Lancaster County - People's CHC	\$120,000.00

Dr. Rebecca Schroeder seconded the motion. Motion carried. YES: Craig, Goertz, Goodman, Kent, Mlnarik, Piskorski, Schroeder, and Wells. NO: None. EXCUSED: Buhlke, Roberts-Johnson, Sitorius.

8. Other Business

- Other

Roger Wells reported that he was invited to participate in the Rural Primary Care Issue Group Meeting to be held in Washington, D.C. in July. This meeting is a partnership with the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy and the National Rural Health Association. The purpose of the rural Primary Care Issue Group is to help rural communities (1) move toward the improvement and expansion of access to health; (2) build and maintain its primary care workforce; (3) build partnerships with other organizations; (4) expand and improve access to culturally competent, quality health care; (5) ensure that primary care, preventive, and enabling services are available to rural and frontier patients and (6) monitor the landscape under expanded insurance coverage.

Marty Fattig encouraged all commission members to attend the Nebraska Rural Health Association conference in September.

9. Adjourn

Dr. Mark Goodman moved to adjourn at 2:50 p.m. (no second necessary – vote on immediately). Motion carried. YES: Craig, Goertz, Goodman, Kent, Mlnarik, Piskorski, Schroeder, and Wells. NO: None. EXCUSED: Buhlke, Roberts-Johnson, Sitorius.